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(54) Title: METHOD OF PREVENTING CORROSION OF METAL SHEET USING VINYL SILANES

(57) Abstract

A method of preventing corrosion of a metal sheet, comprising the steps of: providing a metal sheet chosen from the group consisting of coated steel sheet, aluminum sheet and aluminum alloy sheet; and applying a solution containing at least one hydrolyzed vinyl silane to the metal sheet. A coating of paint or other polymer may be applied directly on top of the vinyl silane coating.

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**METHOD OF PREVENTING CORROSION OF METAL SHEET
USING VINYL SILANES**

5 The present invention relates to a method of preventing corrosion of metal sheet. More particularly, the method comprises applying a solution containing one or more hydrolyzed vinyl silanes to the metal sheet. The method is particularly useful as a pretreatment step
10 prior to painting of galvanized steel.

Most metal sheets are susceptible to corrosion, including the formation of various types of rust. Such corrosion will significantly affect the quality of such metal sheets, as well as that of the products produced
15 therefrom. Although rust and the like may often be removed from the metal sheets, such steps are costly and may further diminish the strength of the metal. In addition, when polymer coatings such as paints, adhesives or rubbers are applied to the metals, corrosion of the base metal
20 material may cause a loss of adhesion between the polymer coating and the base metal.

By way of example, metallic coated steel sheet such as galvanized steel is used in many industries, including the automotive, construction and appliance industries. In most
25 cases, the galvanized steel is painted or otherwise coated with a polymer layer to achieve a durable and aesthetically-pleasing product.

Galvanized steel, particularly hot-dipped galvanized steel, however, often develops "white rust" during storage
30 and shipment. White rust (also called "storage strain") is typically caused by moisture condensation on the surface of the galvanized steel which reacts with the zinc coating. This white rust is aesthetically unappealing and impairs the ability of the galvanized steel to be painted or
35 otherwise coated with a polymer. Thus, prior to such coating, the zinc surface of the galvanized steel must be pretreated in order to remove the white rust which is

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present, and prevent it from reforming beneath the polymer layer. Various methods are currently employed to not only prevent the formation of white rust during shipment and storage, but also to prevent the formation of the white 5 rust beneath a polymer coating (e.g., paint).

In order to prevent white rust on hot-dipped galvanized steel during storage and shipping, the surface of the steel is often passivated by forming a thin chromate film at the surface of the steel. While such chromate 10 coatings do provide resistance to the formation of white rust, chromium is highly toxic and environmentally undesirable.

It is also known to employ a phosphate conversion coating in conjunction with a chromate rinse in order to 15 improve paint adherence and provide corrosion protection. It is believed that the chromate rinse covers the pores in the phosphate coating, thereby improving the corrosion resistance and adhesion performance. Once again, however, it is highly desirable to eliminate the use of chromate 20 altogether. Unfortunately, however, the phosphate conversion coating is generally not effective without the chromate rinse.

Recently, various techniques for eliminating the use 25 of chromate have been proposed. These include coating the galvanized steel with an inorganic silicate and followed by treating the silicate coating with an organofunctional silane (U.S. Patent No. 5,108,793). U.S. Patent No. 5,292,549 teaches the rinsing of metallic coated steel sheet with a solution containing an organic silane and a 30 crosslinking agent. Various other techniques for preventing the formation of white rust on galvanized steel, as well as preventing corrosion on other types of metal sheets, have also been proposed. Many of these proposed techniques, however, are ineffective, or require time-consuming, 35 energy-inefficient, multi-step processes. Thus, there is a need for a simple, low-cost technique for preventing corrosion on the surface of galvanized steel or other metal

sheets, particularly wherein a polymer coating such as paint is to be applied to the metal.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method of preventing corrosion of metal sheet.

5 It is another object of the present invention to provide a method of preventing corrosion of coated steel sheet which employs a single-step treatment process.

10 It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a treatment solution for preventing corrosion of galvanized steel sheet, wherein the treatment composition need not be removed prior to painting.

15 The foregoing objects can be accomplished, in accordance with one aspect of the present invention, by providing a method of preventing corrosion of a metal sheet, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a metal sheet, said metal chosen from the group consisting of:

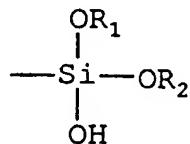
20 -steel sheet coated with a metal chosen from the group consisting of: zinc, zinc alloy, aluminum and aluminum alloy;

-aluminum sheet; and

-aluminum alloy sheet;

and

25 (b) applying a solution containing one or more hydrolyzed vinyl silanes to said metal sheet, each of said hydrolyzed vinyl silanes having



35 at one terminus and a vinyl group at the opposite terminus, wherein R₁ and R₂ are each chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acetyl. The total concentration of unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes used to prepare the treatment solution is greater than

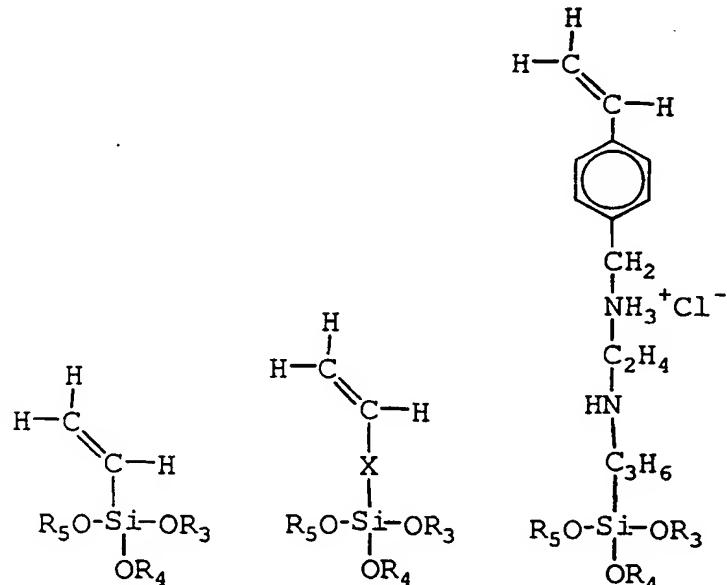
about 4% by volume, based upon the total volume of solution components.

The unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes used to prepare the treatment solution are preferably selected from the group consisting of:

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wherein X is an alkyl group, and R₃, R₄, and R₅ are each chosen from the group consisting of: C₁ - C₄ alkyl, and acetyl. More preferably, X is a C₁ - C₁₀ alkyl.

The other treatment solution components preferably include water, and optionally at least one alcohol which may be chosen from the group consisting of: methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, and isomers thereof. The solution need not contain other active components nor diluents. Preferably it is substantially free of such additives, for instance, silicates and colloidal silica which are included in prior art compositions mentioned above.

The pH of the vinyl silane solution should be between about 3 and about 8, more preferably between about 4 and about 6.

The vinyl silane solution may be applied to the sheet by dipping the sheet in the solution for between about 10

seconds and about one hour, and the sheet may be heat treated after application of the treatment composition.

The metal sheet is preferably hot dip coated with a metal chosen from the group consisting of zinc, zinc alloy, 5 aluminum and aluminum alloy, and is more preferably hot-dipped galvanized steel. The unhydrolyzed vinyl silane(s) used to prepare the treatment solution may be selected from the group consisting of: vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, 10 vinyltripropoxysilane, vinyltrisopropoxysilane, vinyltributoxysilane, vinylacetoxysilane, vinylmethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylpropyltrimethoxysilane, and 15 N-[2-(vinylbenzylamino)-ethyl]-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane. The treated sheet may be coated with a polymer directly on top of the vinyl silane coating, and this polymer may be a paint, and adhesive or a rubber. Suitable paints include polyesters, polyurethanes and epoxies.

20 Applicants have found that the corrosion of metal sheet, particularly galvanized steel, can be prevented by applying a treatment solution containing one or more hydrolyzed vinyl silanes to the metal sheet. The corrosion protection provided by the resulting vinyl silane coating 25 is surprisingly superior to conventional chromate-based treatments, and avoids the chromium disposal problem. In addition, the vinyl silane coating need not be removed prior to painting or application of another polymer (such as adhesives or rubbers), and in fact offers excellent 30 paint adhesion and corrosion protection beneath the layer of paint.

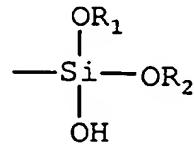
The treatment method of the present invention may be used on any of a variety of metal sheets, including aluminum sheet, aluminum alloy sheet, and steel sheet 35 coated with zinc, zinc alloy, aluminum or aluminum alloy. It should be noted that the term "metal sheet" includes both continuous coil as well as cut lengths. The treatment

method of the present invention is particularly suitable for coated steel such as galvanized steel, GALVALUME® (sold by Bethlehem Steel), GALFAN® (sold by Weirton Steel Corp., of Weirton, WV), and similar types of coated steel. More 5 particularly, the treatment method of the present 5 invention provides improved corrosion protection for hot-dipped galvanized steel.

The vinyl silane solution is preferably applied to the metal sheet prior to shipment to the end-user, and offers 10 corrosion protection during shipment and storage of the metal sheet, including the prevention of white rust on galvanized steel. The end user may then merely solvent clean and/or alkaline clean the sheet in the normal fashion, and then apply paint or another polymer (e.g., 15 such as adhesives or rubber coatings) directly on top of the layer of vinyl silane. The vinyl silane coating on the metal sheet not only provides excellent corrosion protection, but also superior paint (or polymer) adhesion. Thus, unlike many of the currently-employed corrosion 20 treatment techniques, the vinyl silane coating need not be removed prior to painting.

The preferred vinyl silanes in the treatment solution may be fully or partially hydrolyzed, and thus each of the hydrolyzed vinyl silanes has a

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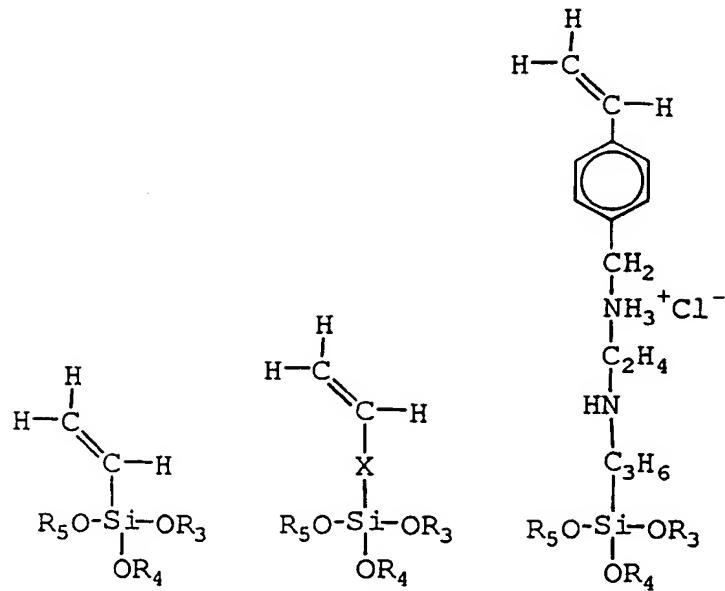


30 at one terminus and a vinyl group at the opposite terminus, wherein R₁ and R₂ are each chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acetyl. When fully hydrolyzed, R₁ and R₂ are hydrogen. The unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes which may be used to prepare the treatment solution include the 35 following:

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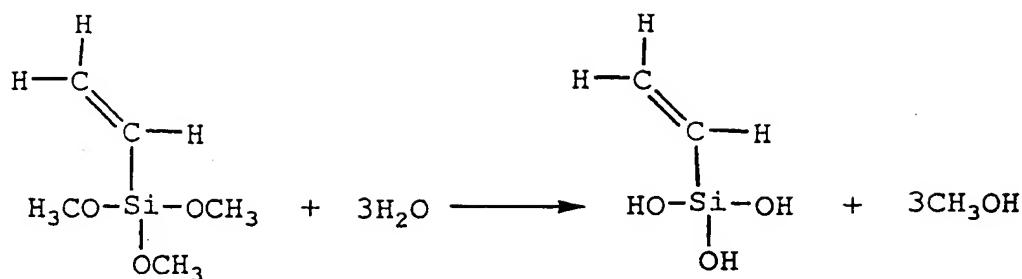
wherein X is an alkyl group, preferably $C_1 - C_{10}$ alkyl, and R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 are each chosen from the group consisting of: $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl, and acetyl. Suitable vinyl silanes falling within the above description include:

20 vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltripropoxysilane, vinyltriisopropoxysilane, vinyltributoxysilane, vinylacetoxysilane, vinylmethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylpropyltrimethoxysilane, and N-[2-

25 (vinylbenzylamino)-ethyl]-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (SAAPS). One particularly preferred vinyl silane is vinyltrimethoxysilane, sold as A-171 by OSI Specialities, Inc., of Tarrytown, NY.

The above-described silanes must be at least 30 partially, and preferably fully hydrolyzed so that the silane will bond to the metal surface. During hydrolysis, the alkoxy or acetoxy groups are replaced with hydroxyl groups. Thus, for example, vinyltrimethoxysilane is fully hydrolyzed according the following equation:

35



Upon drying of a solution of hydrolyzed vinyl silanes which has been applied to a metal surface, it is believed that the silanol groups condense to siloxane structures which become chemically bonded to the metal surface. Hydrolysis 5 of the vinyl silane may be accomplished merely by mixing the vinyl silane with water, and optionally including a solvent such as an alcohol in order to improve solubility of the vinyl silane. The pH of the solution is also preferably maintained below about 8, and more preferably 10 about 4, in order to improve hydrolysis. The pH may be adjusted, for example, by the addition of a weak acid, such as acetic acid.

Applicants believe that the beneficial results of the treatment method of the present invention are due, in part, 15 to the fact that a thin layer of the hydrolyzed vinyl silane monomer is strongly bonded to the oxides on the surface of the metal sheet. The metal surface is passivated, and the condensation of moisture is prevented by the hydrophobic nature of the vinyl group. Thus, during 20 preparation of the vinyl silane solution, care must be taken to ensure that the hydrolyzed vinyl silane does not polymerize via a condensation reaction. If the monomer is permitted to polymerize, the coating will not adhere to the metal and will therefore not form a complete film on the 25 metal sheet.

Polymerization of the hydrolyzed vinyl silane can be prevented by ensuring that a fresh solution of hydrolyzed vinyl silanes is employed, since the reaction will occur slowly over a period of time. More importantly, the

polymerization reaction can be inhibited by proper choice of the pH of the solution. The condensation reaction is generally inhibited at a pH below about 8, particularly below about 6, while the hydrolysis reaction itself will 5 still occur at below a pH of 8. The pH of the treatment solution should also be at least about 3, particularly when the hydrolyzed vinyl silane solution is used to treat galvanized steel, in order to ensure that the base metal and its coatings (e.g., zinc) will not be attacked. For 10 example, the zinc coating on galvanized steel will begin to dissolve at a pH below about 3. Thus, it is preferred that the pH of the treatment solution of the present invention be between about 3 and about 8, and more preferably between about 4 and about 6.

15 Applicants have also found that the concentration of hydrolyzed vinyl silanes in the treatment solution will affect the degree of corrosion protection. Thus, it is preferred that the solution be prepared using greater than about 4% unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes by volume. It should be 20 noted that the concentration of vinyl silanes discussed and claimed herein are all measured in terms of the ratio between the amount of unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes employed (i.e., prior to hydrolyzation), and the total volume of treatment solution components (i.e., vinyl silanes, water, 25 optional solvents and pH adjusting acids). In addition, the concentrations refer to the total amount of unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes added, as multiple vinyl silanes may optionally be employed. At concentrations below about 4%, it has been found that the corrosion protection will be 30 limited. Higher concentrations (greater than about 10%) should also be avoided in order to prevent the condensation reaction from occurring, and to avoid the waste of vinyl silane. In addition, treatment solutions containing higher concentrations of vinyl silane will produce thick films 35 which are very weak and brittle. Since the solubility in water of some of the vinyl silanes used in the present invention may be limited, the treatment solution may

optionally include one or more solvents, such as an alcohol, in order to improve silane solubility. Particularly preferred alcohols include: methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, and isomers thereof. The amount employed 5 will depend upon the solubility of the particular vinyl silanes, and thus the treatment solution of the present invention may contain up to about 95 parts of alcohol (by volume) for every 5 parts of water. Methanol is the preferred alcohol.

10 The treatment method itself is very simple. The unhydrolyzed vinyl silane(s), water, alcohol (if needed), and a small amount of acetic acid (to adjust the pH) are combined with one another. Other weak acids may alternatively be employed to adjust the pH as needed. The 15 solution is then stirred at room temperature in order to hydrolyze the vinyl silane. The hydrolysis may take up to several hours to complete, and its completion will be evidenced by the solution becoming clear. In order to ensure that the hydrolyzed vinyl silane monomers do not 20 condense (or polymerize), the solution should be used shortly after preparation (preferably within one day). The metal sheet is preferably solvent and/or alkaline cleaned by techniques well-known in the prior art prior to application of the treatment composition of the present 25 invention. The treatment solution may then be applied to the cleaned metal sheet (i.e., by coating the sheet with the solution) by either dipping the sheet into the solution (also referred to as "rinsing"), or spraying the solution onto the surface of the metal. When the preferred 30 application method of dipping is employed, the duration of dipping is not critical, as it generally does not affect the resulting film thickness. It is preferred that the dipping time be between about ten seconds and about one hour, preferably only about two minutes to ensure complete 35 coating of the metal sheet.

After coating with the treatment solution of the present invention, the metal sheet is then air-dried at

room temperature, and optionally placed into an oven for heat treatment. The heat treatment may take place at temperatures between about 60°C and about 200°C for between about 5 and about 120 minutes. Preferably, heat treatment 5 is performed at a temperature of about 180°C for about 10 minutes. While the heat treatment step is not necessary to achieve satisfactory results, it will improve drying time thereby lessening the likelihood of the formation of white rust during drying. Of course the heat treatment step will, 10 on the other hand, consume large amounts of energy. The treated metal sheet may then be shipped to the end-user, and even stored for a period of time prior to use.

The coating of the present invention provides significant corrosion resistance during the period of 15 shipping and storage. In addition, and just as significant, the coating need not be removed prior to painting or the application of other polymer coatings. The end-user, such as an automotive manufacturer, may apply paint directly over top the vinyl silane coating without additional 20 treatment such as the application of chromates. The vinyl silane not only provides a surprisingly high degree of paint adhesion (apparently through covalent bonding with the vinyl groups), but also prevents delamination and underpaint corrosion even if a portion of the base metal is 25 exposed to the atmosphere. The surface of the metal, however, should be solvent and/or alkaline cleaned prior to application of the paint or other polymer coating, using methods well-known in the prior art. Suitable polymer 30 coatings include various types of paints, adhesives (such as epoxy automotive adhesives), and rubber coatings (e.g., natural, NBR (copolymer of butadiene and acrylonitrile), SBR (copolymer of styrene and butadiene), nitrile or silicone rubber). Suitable paints include polyesters, polyurethanes and epoxy-based paints.

35 As mentioned previously, the methods of the present invention are particularly useful for the treatment of precoated steel, such as steel which has been coated with

either zinc or zinc alloys (e.g., hot-dipped galvanized steel). Although the zinc coating galvanically protects exposed steel, corrosion can occur beneath a paint layer which is applied to the zinc-coated steel. This is 5 particularly true if a portion of the painted steel is damaged such that the steel layer itself is exposed to the atmosphere. Although the zinc coating will protect the steel from rusting by means of sacrificial galvanic action, the corroding zinc coating will generate zinc ions which 10 migrate to the exposed steel and combine with hydroxyl ions to form white rust. Over a period of time, the zinc coating beneath the paint will slowly corrode, resulting in a delamination of the paint film.

While the phosphate/chromate treatments of the prior 15 art tend to reduce paint delamination of galvanized steel to some extent, the results obtained are far from ideal. Thus, corrosion and delamination of paint will often spread from a small region of exposed steel (i.e., a scratch in the painted surface) over a period of time (referred to as 20 "creepage" or "creepback"). Applicants have surprisingly found that the vinyl silane treatments of the present invention provide considerable protection against such creepage, and thus, provide an effective undercoating for painted zinc or zinc alloy coated steel, (particularly hot-dipped galvanized steel). Just as importantly, the 25 treatment methods of the present invention eliminate the costly, toxic and environmentally unsound prior art treatment methods employing phosphates and chromates.

The examples below demonstrate some of the superior 30 and unexpected results obtained by employing the methods of the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1

A treatment solution according to the present invention having 5% (by volume) of a vinyl silane was 35 prepared as follows. 5ml of vinyltrimethoxysilane (obtained from OSI Specialties, Inc., as A-171) was combined with 5ml of methanol, and 0.5ml of 1 M acetic acid. The solution was

then diluted with water to 100ml, thereby providing a vinyl silane concentration of 5% by volume (in terms of the amount of silane initially present). The pH of the solution was 4.1. Treatment solutions having vinyltrimethoxysilane concentrations of 1%, 2%, 3% and 4% were prepared in a similar fashion. Panels of hot-dipped galvanized steel ("HDG") measuring 10cm x 15cm were then solvent-cleaned and alkaline cleaned, dipped into the treatment solutions for approximately one minute, removed, air-dried at room temperature, and then heat treated at 185°C for about 15 minutes.

In order to simulate the conditions experienced by coiled HDG during storage and shipment, the treated HDG panels were then subjected to a "stack test." Three identically treated panels were wetted with water, clamped to one another in a stack, and then placed in a humidity chamber at 60°C and 85%RH. Interfacing surfaces of the panels (i.e., surfaces which contacted another panel) were monitored after one day for the presence of white, and the following results were observed:

	Concentration of Vinyl Silane Solution (vol.%)	Percentage of Surface Covered by White Rust
25	1	15
	2	30
	3	15
	4	5
	5	none

30 The panel treated with a 5% vinyl silane solution was then permitted to remain in the humidity chamber, with the interfacing surfaces of the panel rewetted every day, and no white rust was observed after two weeks. In contrast, untreated HDG panels formed white rust over 50% of their 35 surface after only one day, and panels coated with a conventional chromate film (CHEM COTE RF 1000 treatment, available from Brent America, Inc.) began to form white

rust after one week (with rewetting of the interfacing surfaces each day). Thus, the treatment solution and method of the present invention provide protection against white rust, particularly when the vinyl silane concentration is 5 greater than about 4%.

EXAMPLE 2

A 5% treatment solution containing vinyltrimethoxysilane was prepared as outlined in Example 1, and was used to coat HDG panels in the same manner as in 10 Example 1 (including the heat treatment step). The thus treated panels were then powder painted with polyester and polyurethane paints in the conventional manner (Sample C). Untreated HDG panels were solvent-cleaned and painted in a similar fashion (Sample A). Finally, HDG panels were also 15 solvent cleaned, and then treated with a conventional zinc phosphate conversion coating (CHEM COTE 3200 coating, available from Brent America, Inc.) followed by a chromate rinse (CHEM SEAL 3603 rinse, available from Brent America, Inc.) (Sample B). The panels of Samples A and B were also 20 powder painted with polyester and polyurethane paints.

In order to measure creepage, which in turn is indicative of the degree of paint adhesion and corrosion protection, a carbide-tipped pencil-type scribing tool was 25 used to produce a 3-inch long scribe in each of the panels. The scribe was sufficiently deep to expose the base metal. The scribed panels were then subjected to a salt spray test (ASTM B117), as well as a cyclic corrosion test (General Motors test number GM9540P). The salt spray test for the 30 polyester powder-painted panels was conducted for one week, while the polyurethane powder-painted panels were subjected to the salt spray test for two weeks. The cyclic corrosion test was conducted for four weeks on all of the panels. After completion of the test period, a piece of adhesive 35 tape was secured atop each scribe and then pulled off of the panel. The average width of the area of paint

delamination was then measured for each panel, and the following results were obtained:

5	Sample ID	Salt Sp Test		Cyclic C ion Test	
		Width of creepage(mm)		Width of creepage(mm)	
		Polyester	Polyurethane	Polyester	Polyurethane
10	A	51.8 \pm 20.8	57.0 \pm 11.9	22.8 \pm 11.5	9.9 \pm 2.5
	B	4.0 \pm 1.2	12.0 \pm 4.2	11.0 \pm 6.2	18.8 \pm 10.1
	C	1.1 \pm 0.6	1.3 \pm 2.0	1.1 \pm 1.0	1.3 \pm 0.8

As indicated by the above results, the treatment method of the present invention provides significant protection against creepage as compared to both untreated panels as well as those treated with the phosphate/chromate treatment method. These results clearly indicate that the treatment methods of the present invention not only provide excellent corrosion resistance, but also excellent paint adhesion.

The foregoing description of preferred embodiments is by no means exhaustive of the variations in the present invention that are possible, and has been presented only for purposes of illustration and description. Obvious modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the teachings of the foregoing description without departing from the scope of this invention. For example, various types of polymer coatings other than paint may be applied on top of the vinyl silane coating of the present invention. In addition, vinyltrimethoxysilane is but merely one exemplary vinyl silane which may be employed. Thus, it is intended that the scope of the present invention be defined by the claims appended hereto.

Claims:

1. A method of preventing corrosion of a metal sheet, comprising the steps of:

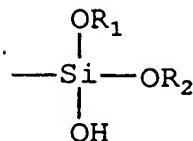
5 (a) providing a metal sheet, said metal chosen from the group consisting of:

-steel sheet coated with a metal chosen from the group consisting of: zinc, zinc alloy, aluminum and aluminum alloy;

-aluminum sheet; and -

10 -aluminum alloy sheet; and

(b) applying a treatment solution containing at least one hydrolyzed vinyl silane directly onto said metal sheet, said treatment solution prepared by hydrolyzing at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane, each of said 15 hydrolyzed vinyl silanes having a

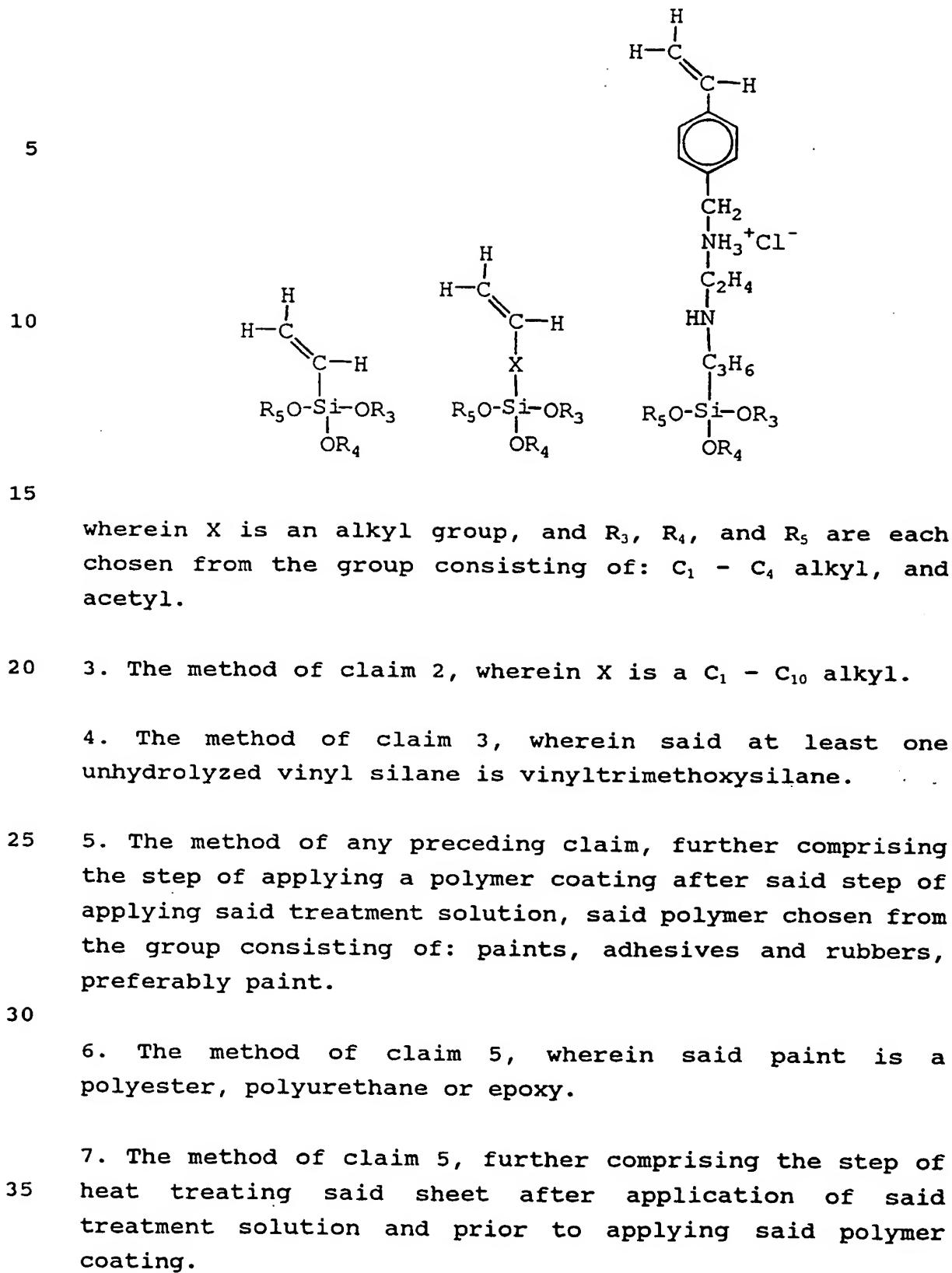


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at one terminus and a vinyl group at the opposite terminus, wherein R₁ and R₂ are each chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acetyl, and wherein the total concentration of unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes employed to 25 prepare the treatment solution is greater than about 4% by volume, based upon the total volume of the treatment solution, and wherein the pH of said treatment solution is between about 3 and about 8.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane is selected from the group consisting of:



8. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said treatment solution further comprises water.
- 5 9. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said treatment solution further comprises at least one alcohol.
- 10 10. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of: methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, and isomers thereof.
- 15 11. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said treatment solution is applied to said sheet by dipping said sheet in said solution for between about 10 seconds and about one hour, and the pH of said solution is between about 4 and about 6.
12. A method of claims 2 and claim 5, in which the metal sheet is a steel sheet coated with a metal.
- 20 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said steel sheet is hot dip coated with the said metal.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein said steel sheet is hot-dipped galvanized steel.
- 25 15. The method of claim 14, wherein, said at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane is selected from the group consisting of: vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltripropoxysilane, vinyltriisopropoxysilane, vinyltributoxysilane, vinylacetoxysilane, vinylmethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylpropyltrimethoxysilane, and N-[2-(vinylbenzylamino)-ethyl]-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane.
- 30 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane is vinylpropyltrimethoxysilane.

17. A method of preventing corrosion of a metal sheet, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a metal sheet, said metal chosen from the group consisting of:

5 -steel sheet coated with a metal chosen from the group consisting of: zinc, zinc alloy, aluminum and aluminum alloy;

-aluminum sheet; and -

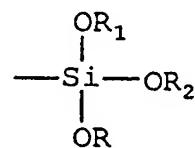
-aluminum alloy sheet; and

10 (b) applying a treatment solution consisting essentially of at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane to said metal sheet, said at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane is vinyltrimethoxysilane, and wherein the total concentration of unhydrolyzed vinyltrimethoxysilane employed to prepare the treatment solution is greater than about 4% by volume, based upon the total volume of the treatment solution, and wherein the pH of said treatment 15 solution is between about 3 and about 8.

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18. A treatment solution composition consisting essentially of at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane, each of said unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes having a

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30 at one terminus and a vinyl group at the opposite terminus, wherein R, R₁ and R₂ are each chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acetyl, and wherein the total concentration of unhydrolyzed vinyl silanes employed to prepare the treatment solution is greater than about 4% by volume, based upon the total volume of the treatment 35 solution.

20

19. The composition of claim 18, wherein said treatment solution further comprises water.

5 20. The composition of claim 18 or claim 19, wherein said treatment solution further comprises at least one alcohol.

10 21. The composition of claim 18, 19 or 20 wherein said alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of: methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, and isomers thereof.

10

22. The composition of any of claims 18 to 21, wherein said at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane is selected from the group consisting of: vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltripropoxysilane, vinyltriisopropoxysilane, vinyltributoxysilane, vinylacetoxysilane, vinylmethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylethyltrimethoxysilane, vinylpropyltrimethoxysilane, and N-[2-(vinylbenzylamino)-ethyl]-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane

20

23. The composition of any of claims 18 to 22, wherein said at least one unhydrolyzed vinyl silane is vinylpropyltrimethoxysilane or vinyltrimethoxysilane.

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24. The composition of any of claims 18 to 23, wherein the pH is in the range of 3 to 8.

25. The composition of claim 24, which has had a weak acid, preferably acetic acid, added to it.

30

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PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B05D 7/16, C09D 5/08, C23C 22/53, 22/56		A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/19798 (43) International Publication Date: 14 May 1998 (14.05.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP97/06090		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 4 November 1997 (04.11.97)		(70) Priority Data: 08/743,864 5 November 1996 (05.11.96) US	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI [US/US]; Cincinnati, OH 45221-0012 (US).		(72) Inventors; and	
(73) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): VAN OOIJ, Wim, J. [NL/US]; 154 Annandale Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014-0012 (US). YUAN, Wei [CN/US]; Apartment #A1, 3638 Salem Walk, Northbrook, IL 60062 (US).		(74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House, 7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB).	
(54) Title: METHOD OF PREVENTING CORROSION OF METAL SHEET USING VINYL SILANES			
(57) Abstract			
A method of preventing corrosion of a metal sheet, comprising the steps of: providing a metal sheet chosen from the group consisting of coated steel sheet, aluminum sheet and aluminum alloy sheet; and applying a solution containing at least one hydrolyzed vinyl silane to the metal sheet. A coating of paint or other polymer may be applied directly on top of the vinyl silane coating.			

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

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DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 97/06090

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 B05D7/16 C09D5/08 C23C22/53 C23C22/56

According to International Patent Classification(IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B05D C09D C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8448 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A14, AN 84-298207 XP002065788 & JP 59 185 779 A (KURARAY CO LTD) see abstract --- A DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 9608 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A32, AN 96-073545 XP002065789 & JP 07 329 104 A (POLYPLASTICS KK) see abstract --- -/-	1
		1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 May 1998

04/06/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Brothier, J-A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 97/06090

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8721 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A96, AN 87-146417 XP002065790 & JP 62 083 034 A (SHINGIJUTSU KAIHATSU KK) see abstract -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

US 00/19646

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C23C22/56 C23C22/53 C23C22/48 C23C22/68 C23C22/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 20705 A (AAR CORNELIS P J V D ;00IJ WIM J VAN (US)) 29 April 1999 (1999-04-29) claims 1,9,13-16	1-29
A	WO 98 19798 A (00IJ WIM J VAN ;UNIV CINCINNATI (US); YUAN WEI (US)) 14 May 1998 (1998-05-14) claims 1-15	1-5
A	US 5 750 197 A (SUBRAMANIAN VIJAY ET AL) 12 May 1998 (1998-05-12) claims 1-15	1-5

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/11/2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/19646

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9920705	A 29-04-1999	AU EP	1198799 A 1032616 A	10-05-1999 06-09-2000
WO 9819798	A 14-05-1998	US AU AU BR CN EP PL ZA	5759629 A 724454 B 5479198 A 9712744 A 1239908 A 0959990 A 333326 A 9709948 A	02-06-1998 21-09-2000 29-05-1998 21-12-1999 29-12-1999 01-12-1999 06-12-1999 05-11-1998
US 5750197	A 12-05-1998	AU BR WO EP PL ZA	5862498 A 9807057 A 9830735 A 1015662 A 334657 A 9800133 A	03-08-1998 02-05-2000 16-07-1998 05-07-2000 13-03-2000 08-01-1999

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

REC'D 27 NOV 2001

PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference HMJ03312WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/19646	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 19/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C23C22/56		
Applicant UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09/02/2001	Date of completion of this report 23.11.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized officer Torfs, F Telephone No. +31 70 340 3037



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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/19646

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):
Description, pages:

1-18 as originally filed

Claims, No.: 1-18 as originally filed

1-29 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/19646

- the drawings, sheets:
5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c));
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)
6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims 1-29
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims 1-29
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-29
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/19646

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document/s/:

D1 = WO-A-9920705

D2 = WO-A-9819798

D3 = US-A-5750197

1. The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33 (2) PCT because the subject-matter of claims 1-29 is not new in respect of prior art, as defined in the regulations (Rule 64 (1)-(3) PCT).

1.1 Document D1 discloses (see claims 1,9,13-16) a method of adhering a metal substrate to a rubber substrate comprising contacting one of said substrates with an effective adhesive amount of an adhesive treatment comprising an organofunctional silane (I) and a non-organofunctional silane (II), both being at least partially hydrolysed. The non-organofunctional silane is a member selected from the group consisting of methyltrimethoxysilane (MS); propyltrimethoxysilane (PS); 1, 2 bis (triethoxysilyl) ethane (BTSE); bis (methyl diethoxysilyl) ethane (BDMSE); 1, 2-bis (trimethoxysilyl) ethane (TMSE); 1,6-bis (trialkoxysilyl) hexanes and **1, 2-bis (trimethoxysilylpropyl) amine** and the organofunctional silane is selected from vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane and **vinyltriacetoxysilane**. They are used in aqueous solutions having preferably a pH of about 4 in concentrations of 0.5-10 %. Since in the present application only a mixture of 1,2-bis (trimethoxysilylpropyl) amine and vinyltriacetoxysilane is exemplified and no effect at all has been shown of this mixture with regard to the state of the art disclosed in D1, the selected combination does not satisfy the requirements of novelty of selection inventions.

1.2 The use of the preferred vinyltriacetoxysilane for treating metal surfaces is also already disclosed in documents D2 (see claim 15) and D3 (see claim 15).

Re Item VI

Certain documents cited

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/19646

WO-A-0046310

Publ. 10.08.00

Priority 05.02.99

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1 to D3. is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

1. It is clear from the description on page 12, line 14 that the following features is essential to the definition of the invention:

- (1) The treatment solution is aqueous

Since independent claims 1 and 22. do not contain this features they do not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3(b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.

2. The term "about" in claims 1,20,21,22,23,24 and 27, introduces an ambiguity with respect to the limits of the range it refers to, and as such renders the scope of these claims unclear (Article 6 PCT).

3. The same applies to the term "substantially" in claims 1 and 25.

4. The terms "more preferably" and " most preferably" used in claims 1,5,6,7,8,20,21, 22,23,24,26 and 27 introduce an ambiguity in the protection sought in these claims since they have no limiting effect on the scope of a claim.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 19789-8 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 19646	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 19/07/1999
Applicant UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 2 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).**

3. **Unity of Invention is lacking (see Box II).**

4. With regard to the **title**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/19646

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C23C22/56 C23C22/53 C23C22/48 C23C22/68 C23C22/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 20705 A (AAR CORNELIS P J V D ;00IJ WIM J VAN (US)) 29 April 1999 (1999-04-29) claims 1,9,13-16 ---	1-29
A	WO 98 19798 A (00IJ WIM J VAN ;UNIV CINCINNATI (US); YUAN WEI (US)) 14 May 1998 (1998-05-14) claims 1-15 ---	1-5
A	US 5 750 197 A (SUBRAMANIAN VIJAY ET AL) 12 May 1998 (1998-05-12) claims 1-15 -----	1-5



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/19646

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
WO 9920705	A 29-04-1999	AU 1198799	A	AU 1032616	A 10-05-1999 06-09-2000
WO 9819798	A 14-05-1998	US 5759629	A	AU 724454	B 02-06-1998 21-09-2000
		AU 5479198	A	BR 9712744	A 29-05-1998 21-12-1999
		CN 1239908	A	CN 1239908	A 29-12-1999
		EP 0959990	A	EP 0959990	A 01-12-1999
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